

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on October 4, 2005. Claims 1-30 are pending and Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-30 stand rejected in the Application. Claims 1, 7, 9-13, 20, 26, and 30 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 4, 14-17, 21, 22, 27, and 28 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowed Claims

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 4 and 10. Applicants understand from an exchange of voice mails with Examiner Marcelo that Claim 10 was inadvertently indicated to be allowed and that Claim 4 should have been indicated to be allowable rather than allowed.

Claim Objections

The objections to Claims 4, 12, and 20 have been addressed by making the amendments suggested in the Office Action. Favorable action is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-3 and 5-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,873,628 to Tang (“*Tang*”). Although Applicants traverse these rejections, they are moot because the Office Action indicates Claim 4 is allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten Claim 4 in independent form as Claim 1¹, and it is therefore allowable, as are all claims depending therefrom. Independent Claims 7, 13, 20, 26, and 30 have also been amended and are allowable for analogous reasons, as are all claims depending therefrom. Favorable action is requested.

¹ Applicants note that the phrase "comprises granting control of a second subset of the ports" has been added in the last line of the additional limitation from Claim 4 for clarity, and the phrase "a first subset at the ports" has been changed to "a first subset of the ports" to correct a typographical error.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, please feel free to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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